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FORMER I.N.S. INSPECTOR SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG CHARGES

(DEL RIO, TEXAS) United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 31-year-old **ELIU OLVERA**—former Immigration and Naturalization Service inspector at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry—was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison.

“Mr. Olvera breached his duty to uphold the law and enabled drug dealers to smuggle load after load of illegal narcotics into the United States,” stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

In addition, United States District Judge William Wayne Justice ordered that Olvera be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term. Also, Judge Justice sentenced Olvera’s wife—24-year-old **YVONNE RODRIGUEZ**—to 63 months in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release and Olvera’s mother-in-law—41-year-old **MARIA GUADALUPE DELGADO**—to two years in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release.

Last October, Olvera pled guilty to one count each of conspiracy to import cocaine, conspiracy to import marijuana, bribery of a public official and exceeding authorized computer access for private financial gain; Rodriguez pled guilty to one count of attempted importation of cocaine; and, Delgado pled guilty to one count each of bribery and misprision of felony, that is, she willfully concealed a crime and did not, as soon as possible, make known the commission of the felony to law enforcement.

Between June 1, 2001, and July 11, 2002, Olvera received bribes in exchange for allowing vehicles loaded with marijuana and cocaine to pass through the Port of Entry without inspection. His standard fee was \$2,000 per loaded vehicle, regardless if it was marijuana or cocaine. On July 11, 2002, U.S. Customs officials arrested all three individuals—Olvera at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry; Rodriguez and Delgado at an Eagle Pass grocery store parking lot. Rodriguez and Delgado were waiting to collect \$30,000 in exchange for Olvera allowing a 20 kilogram load of cocaine to enter the U.S. without inspection.

— more —

Olvera sentencing release

March 11, 2003

Page 2

Delgado also provided Olvera with names and dates of birth of individuals for whom she wanted to receive I-94 documents. These individuals consisted primarily of relatives. Olvera would take home multiple I-94 documents from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry and using Delgados information, fill them out on his computer. Delgado paid Olvera \$100 for each I-94 document. There were approximately 20-30 documents in all. In addition to Delgado's requests, Olvera processed other unauthorized I-94 documents and sold them for between \$100 and \$1000 per document. A search of Olvera's residence uncovered numerous blank I-94 and 551 documents.

Finally, Olvera admitted to using an INS computer at the Port of Entry, without authority, to determine an individual's immigration status.

This case was investigated by United States Customs Service Internal Affairs and the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Kinnicutt prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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